

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Winterset Nursing Home Receives 2010 Governor's Award**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) Director Dean Lerner today announced that Winterset Care Center North has been selected to receive the 2010 Governor's Award for Quality Care in Health Care Facilities.

"Iowa's seniors deserve the best in long-term care," said Director Lerner. "That is why I am proud to recognize this nursing home, which represents one of the best in the state. I congratulate Winterset Care Center North on its selection, and thank the administrator and staff for their commitment to outstanding care and quality service for the residents and their family members."

Winterset Care Center North was nominated by individuals who, on a daily basis, witness first-hand the special care provided to residents, the Director explained. While no one facility has a perfect compliance history, the nominators are aware that each facility is evaluated on its past and present compliance as a part of the selection process. "Rather than call this the Governor's Award for Quality Care, it might more appropriately be referred to as the 'Iowa Award for Special Care' because these are health care providers nominated by Iowans," Director Lerner added.

Among the factors in the selection of Winterset Care Center North were the facility's extensive activities for its residents and the "plethora of volunteers" that assist staff in meeting the resident's social needs. Noted, too, was the stability of the facility's staff, some of whom have worked there for more than 30 years.

An additional reason for the Winterset facility's selection is its compliance history. As was noted in the nomination, Winterset Care Center North has had four years of deficiency-free surveys in the past nine years. None of the problems identified during the surveys resulted in a harm-level deficiency, and none required a follow up visit by DIA's Health Facilities Division.

The Quality Care Award was established to recognize those long-term care providers nominated by consumers and advocates which provide a high level of care to their residents. This year's Governor's Award recipient was selected from a field of nine nominated facilities. Since the first awards were presented in 2001, a total of 38 facilities have received a Governor's Award, with several facilities being repeat winners.

Each nominated facility was evaluated and scored according to predetermined criteria, including the uniqueness of programs and services, replicability of programs and services, resources required to provide quality care or services, the resident's quality of life, and the facility's history of compliance. Staff from the DIA's Health Facilities Division conducted onsite visits to verify each of the finalist's eligibility.

"Thousands of Iowans receive compassionate care in our state's long-term care facilities," Director Lerner explained. "This year's honoree provides a level of care and service to their residents worthy of this recognition."